

Supplemental Handout for Expanding CalFresh to SSI Recipients: Access for All Serving People with Disabilities

Intellectual Disability: A category of developmental disability. According to the American Psychiatric Association (DSM-5), an Intellectual Disability involves impairments of general mental abilities that impact adaptive functioning in three areas. These areas impact how a person copes with everyday tasks.

- Conceptual skills (learning, receptive/expressive language, self-direction) — language and literacy; reasoning and memory; time and number concepts; and self-direction.
- Social skills— interpersonal skills, social responsibility, judgment, self-esteem, empathy, social problem solving, and the ability to follow rules and to avoid being victimized.
- Practical skills (self-care, capacity for independent living, economic self-sufficiency) —activities of daily living (personal care), healthcare, travel/transportation, schedules/routines, safety, use of money, organizing school and work tasks.

Symptoms must begin in the person’s developmental period, and are considered chronic, or life-long.

Cerebral Palsy: A category of developmental disability, also a physical disability. Cerebral palsy (CP) is a condition that affects the control over one’s own movements. CP most often starts at birth or within the first few years of life. The early signs usually appear before age 3. Symptoms may change over time, and may differ from person to person and may include:

- Difficulty with fine motor tasks, such as writing or using scissors
- Difficulty maintaining balance or walking
- Involuntary movements

Some people with cerebral palsy may have other medical disorders, including seizures or cognitive impairments.

Epilepsy: Can be a category of developmental disability. A neurological condition that makes people susceptible to seizures. A seizure is a change in sensation, awareness, or behavior brought about by a brief electrical disturbance in the brain. This means there is a change in how the brain cells send electrical signals.

Signs of seizures may cause:

- Moments of sensory disruption
- Short periods of unconsciousness
- Staring spells
- Convulsions

Some may have only one symptom and others may have multiple symptoms. Epilepsy can be caused by anything that affects the brain, including tumors, strokes, genetics, or other causes.

Autism Spectrum Disorder: A category of developmental disability. A complex and broad range of conditions characterized by a variety of symptoms. It is neurodevelopment in nature. The term spectrum refers to the wide range of symptoms, skills and levels of functioning. Signs may include deficits or differences in:

- Social-emotional reciprocity -- for example, abnormal social approach and difficulty of normal back-and-forth conversation; reduced sharing of interests, emotions, or affect; difficulty or failure to initiate or respond to social interactions.
- Nonverbal communicative behaviors used for social interaction.
- Developing, maintaining, and understanding relationships -- for example, difficulties adjusting behavior to suit various social contexts; difficulties in sharing imaginative play or in making friends; absence of interest in peers.

A person with autism may demonstrate restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities, such as:

- Stereotyped or repetitive motor movements, use of objects, or speech (e.g., simple motor stereotypies, lining up toys or flipping objects, echolalia, idiosyncratic phrases).
- Insistence on sameness, inflexible adherence to routines, or ritualized patterns or verbal nonverbal behavior – for example, extreme distress at small changes, difficulties with transitions, rigid thinking patterns, greeting rituals, the need to take a same route or eat the same food every day.
- Restricted, fixated interests that are abnormal in intensity or focus – for example, a strong attachment to unusual objects, or a perseverative interest.
- Hyper or hypo reactivity to sensory input or unusual interests in sensory aspects of the environment – for example, an apparent indifference to pain/temperature, adverse response to specific sounds or textures, excessive smelling or touching of objects, visual fascination with lights or movement.

Traumatic brain injury (TBI): Can be a developmental disability. A form of acquired brain injury. It occurs when a sudden trauma causes damage to the brain. TBI can result when the head suddenly and violently hits an object, or when an object pierces the skull and brain tissue. Symptoms of a TBI can be mild, moderate, or severe, depending on the extent of the damage to the brain. In CA, if the TBI occurs before the age of 18, a person may qualify for Regional Center services through Lanterman Act eligibility.

Mental Health - Psychiatric-based Disability: Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Anxiety disorder
- Panic disorder
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Bipolar disorder
- Depression
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- Eating disorder
- Schizophrenia

Types of Learning Disabilities:

- Dyspraxia
- Dyslexia
- Dysgraphia
- Dyscalculia
- Auditory Processing Disorder
- Language Processing Disorder
- Non-Verbal Learning Disorder
- Visual Perceptual/Visual Motor Deficit

Blindness and Low Vision: Visual conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Legal Blindness
- Cataract
- Color Blindness
- Macular degeneration
- Diabetic retinopathy